

State Water Resources Control Board

June 13, 2017

Tomás Torres, Director
Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Torres.tomas@epa.gov

Re: Support for the Continued Partnership of the California State Water Resources Control Board and The Bay Foundation in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Dear Mr. Torres,

This letter is to serve as a statement of confidence in the efficacy and performance of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program, (SMBNEP) in its current structure. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has supported the SMBNEP in partnership with The Bay Foundation (TBF), as the host entity of the SMBNEP, since 2005.

The SMBNEP has contributed greatly to the shared goals of the US EPA and the State of California via water quality improvement, restoration and protection of habitats, and the preservation of benefits and values to the human communities of coastal Los Angeles. TBF has been central in engaging and developing the diverse partnerships needed to conduct this work. TBF operates very efficiently as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that conducts its business with a Federal Indirect Cost Rate of 12%. Furthermore, TBF has assembled the necessary personnel to manage the federal guidance required of the National Estuary Program and continues to make progress on Bay Restoration Plan goals.

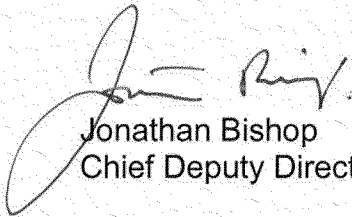
FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Based upon these attributes and the numerous accomplishments of the SMBNEP, the SWRCB remains a committed partner to this impactful program and recognizes that TBF should continue in its role as the host entity of the SMBNEP. In short, the SWRCB is confident in the governance structure of the SMBNEP. In closing the SWRCB is grateful to the Commission's Governing Board, Technical Advisory Committee and Watershed Advisory Council for their service.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. John Borkovich at (916) 341-5779 or john.borkovich@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Bishop", is written over the typed name and title.

Jonathan Bishop
Chief Deputy Director

cc: